

payout based on the result of the game is provided. The gaming machine can include an exterior housing arranged to contain various internal gaming machine components therein, a master gaming controller in communication with various internal gaming machine components and adapted to execute or control one or more aspects of the wager based game, and a display device in communication with the master gaming controller and adapted to present one or more three-dimensional payline thereupon. Added components can include one or more speakers in communication with said master gaming controller and adapted to present sounds with respect to a three-dimensional payline, as well as a network interface coupling the gaming machine to one or more remotely located networked components, wherein the network interface is adapted to facilitate the downloading of three-dimensional payline parameters, three-dimensional payline games, or both to the gaming machine.

**[0011]** The display device can be a multi-layer display that includes at least one display controller adapted to generate or transmit one or more display signals, a first display screen in communication with the display controller and adapted to present a first visual display thereupon based on the display signal or signals, and a second display screen in communication with the display controller and adapted to present a second visual display thereupon based upon the display signal or signals. The second display screen can be positioned behind the first display screen such that the first and second visual displays are adapted to combine for a single visual presentation that includes a three-dimensional payline to a player of the wager-based game. In particular, each three-dimensional payline can include a plurality of symbols, symbol portions, stops, designations or any combination thereof, at least one of which is displayed on the first display screen and at least another of which is disposed on the second display screen.

**[0012]** In various embodiments, one or more three-dimensional paylines can move or jump at least once from one of the multi-layer display screens to another multi-layer display screen. Multiple moves, jumps or extensions between display screens are also possible for a given three-dimensional payline. One or more three-dimensional paylines can have a depth component to go along with a horizontal component and/or a vertical component with respect to a player of the gaming machine. Such a depth component can result from the three-dimensional payline moving or jumping toward or away from the player viewing the multi-layer display.

**[0013]** In some embodiments a three-dimensional payline can include a plurality of reel stops, reel symbols or both disposed across a plurality of virtual reels, while in other embodiments a three-dimensional payline can include a plurality of wheel stops, wheel symbols or both disposed across a plurality of virtual wheels. A combination of virtual reels and wheel may also be used. In some embodiments using virtual reels, a first virtual reel can be displayed on the first display screen and a second virtual reel can be displayed on the second display screen. In other embodiments using virtual reels, all virtual reels can be displayed on only one of the multi-layer display screens, while another multi-layer display screen displays one or more additional game designations that are used with respect to the displayed virtual reels within the context of a wager-based game. Such one or more additional game designations can include a "wild" or "multiplier" designation for a corresponding reel symbol, reel stop, payline or any combination thereof, and a player may be

required to provide an added payment or wager for the additional game designation or designations to be effective for a given wager-based game.

**[0014]** In various embodiments, which can include one or more of the foregoing features, one or more three-dimensional paylines can include at least one composite reel symbol or wheel symbol, with such a composite reel symbol or wheel symbol having a first symbol portion displayed on the first display screen and a second symbol portion displayed on the second display screen to form a combined reel symbol or wheel symbol having a three-dimensional effect.

**[0015]** Still further embodiments include various methods of presenting a three-dimensional payline. Method steps can include providing a wager-based gaming having a multi-layer display device, accepting a monetary value wager from a player, accepting a game-related input from the player, initiating the play of a wager-based game as a result of the game-related input, determining a first three-dimensional payline for use with the wager-based game, and presenting on the multi-layer display the play of the wager-based game including the first three-dimensional payline. The multi-layer display device can include a first display screen adapted to present a first visual display thereupon and a second display screen adapted to present a second visual display thereupon, with the second display screen being positioned behind the first display screen such that the first and second visual displays are adapted to combine for a single visual presentation that includes the first three-dimensional payline to the player. The first three-dimensional payline can include a plurality of symbols, symbol portions, stops, designations or any combination thereof, at least one of which is displayed on the first display screen and at least another of which is disposed on the second display screen. The method may also include the steps of determining a second three-dimensional payline for use with the wager-based game, displaying the second three-dimensional payline, determining a game outcome, and/or granting a monetary award to the player based on the game outcome.

**[0016]** In various further embodiments, a wager-based gaming system includes a plurality of processor-based gaming machines and a remote host in communication therewith. The processor-based gaming machines can be adapted for accepting a wager, playing a game based on the wager and granting a payout based on the result of the game, and each of the processor-based gaming machines can include an exterior housing arranged to contain a plurality of internal gaming machine components therein, a master gaming controller in communication with at least one of the plurality of internal gaming machine components and adapted to execute or control one or more aspects of a wager-based game, and a multi-layer display device in communication with the master gaming controller and adapted to display a first three-dimensional payline thereupon. The remote host can be adapted to download one or more three-dimensional payline parameters, three-dimensional payline games, or both, to one or more of the processor-based gaming machines.

**[0017]** Other embodiments include just a three-dimensional payline, which can include a first stop located at a first gaming position, a second stop located at a second gaming position, and a third stop located at a third gaming position, such that the first, second and third stops are arranged in a designated order to form a line and provide a wager-based game outcome therefore. Such a line can include a horizontal component, a vertical component and a depth component